

REMARKS

The title has been corrected above as requested by the examiner.

Claims 2 and 3 have been cancelled above to overcome the examiner's objection.

Claims 1 and 10-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by JP 2849897. The examiner is requested to reconsider this rejection.

JP 2849897 describes a waterproof connector having a male connector (3), a female connector (2) and a locking cover (4). These correspond to the first connector, the second connector and the rear holder respectively in the present application.

Although the examiner mentions that claims 1-3 are anticipated by JP 2849897, there is no description in JP 2849897 of a locking cover including a resilient locking arm and a resilient clamping lance. The locking arms 23 in JP 2849897 are on the male connector; not in the locking cover. There is no disclosure or suggestion to providing a resilient clamping lance on the locking cover (4).

In the present application, when the rear holder is inserted into the housing, a connecting terminal is engaged with the first connector by the clamping lance and, at the same time, the rear holder is locked with the second connector by the locking arm as shown in Fig. 21.

In order to clarify the features of applicant's claimed invention, claim 1 has been amended above. Claim 1 now claims

that rear holder includes a resilient clamping lance and a resilient locking arm including a free end extending forwardly and a locking claw provided on said locking arm for locking the rear holder with the second connector. The locking arm is locked with a housing main body of the second connector or is locked with the rear holder secured to a housing main body provided in the second connector. The features of claim 1 are not disclosed or suggested in the cited art. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable and should be allowed.

Though the claims dependent upon claim 1 contain their own allowable subject matter, these claims should at least be allowable due to their dependence from allowable claim 1. However, to expedite prosecution at this time, no further comment will be made.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issue remain, the examiner is invited to call applicant's attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

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Respectfully submitted,

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6/27/07
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